

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original) A keyboard device for a keyboard musical instrument, comprising:

keys each opening downward, and having side walls, and an abutment portion provided inside said side walls, said abutment portion having a lower end located at approximately the same height as lower ends of said side walls, said keys each performing pivotal downward motion when depressed; and

stoppers arranged under said keys in a manner associated therewith, respectively, for abutment of said side walls and said abutment portion of an associated one of said keys thereagainst, thereby stopping the downward pivotal motion of said associated key, said stoppers having a shock-absorbing property.

Claim 2. (Original) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said abutment portion is formed by at least one rib.

Claim 3. (Original) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said rib is formed by a plate-shaped rib having a lower surface extending along a plane including lower end faces of said side walls.

Claim 4. (Original) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 2,
wherein said keys are formed by synthetic resin molded articles in which
each key is integrally molded with said rib.

Claim 5. (Original) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 3,
wherein said lower surface of said rib is flush with said lower end faces of
said side walls.

Claim 6. (New) A keyboard device for a keyboard musical instrument,
comprising:
keys each opening downward, and having side walls, and an abutment
portion provided inside said side walls, said abutment portion having a lower end
located at approximately the same height as lower ends of said side walls, said
keys each performing pivotal downward motion when depressed; and
stoppers arranged under said keys in a manner associated therewith,
respectively, for abutment of said side walls and said abutment portion of an
associated one of said keys thereagainst, thereby stopping the downward pivotal
motion of said associated key, said stoppers having a shock-absorbing property,
wherein said abutment portion is formed by a plurality of ribs.

Claim 7. (New) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 6,
wherein said keys are formed by synthetic resin molded articles in which
each key is integrally molded with said ribs.

Claim 8. (New) A keyboard device for a keyboard musical instrument, comprising:

keys each opening downward, and having side walls, and an abutment portion provided inside said side walls, said abutment portion having a lower end located at approximately the same height as lower ends of said side walls, said keys each performing pivotal downward motion when depressed; and

stoppers arranged under said keys in a manner associated therewith, respectively, for abutment of said side walls and said abutment portion of an associated one of said keys thereagainst, thereby stopping the downward pivotal motion of said associated key, said stoppers having a shock-absorbing property,

wherein said abutment portion is formed by at least one plate-shaped rib having a lower surface extending along a plane including lower end faces of said side walls, and coming into surface abutment with said stoppers.

Claim 9. (New) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said keys are formed by synthetic resin molded articles in which each key is integrally molded with said rib.

Claim 10. (New) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said lower surface of said rib is flush with said lower end faces of said side walls.